

**REMARKS**

Claims 3, 8 and 9 have been canceled. Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10-16 and new Claims 17-21 remain active in the case. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to a mixture that is an adhesive or hot-melt-adhesive.

**Claim Amendment**

Claim 1 has been amended by incorporating the limitation of Claim 9, indicated as being allowable, therein. Further, Claim 8 has been canceled in favor of new Claim 21; that is, Claims 1 and 8 have been combined in the new claim.

Minor amendments have been made to Claims 2 and 4-7. Claims 10-14 have been recast into more customary method and process claim language format. New Claims 17-20 are presented and support for Claims 17 and 18 can be found on page 2, last three lines of the text while support for Claims 19 and 20 can be found in original Claims 13 and 14. The amendments and new claims do not introduce new matter into the case. Entry of the amendments and new claims into the record is respectfully requested.

**Invention**

The present invention is directed to an adhesive formulation that is curable by exposure to high energy radiation. As claimed in Claim 1, the adhesive is a mixture of (A) a polymer, which consists to an extent of at least 40 wt % of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> alkyl (meth)acrylates, and (B) a homopolymer or copolymer of vinyl alkyl ether which consists to an extent of at least 70 wt % of structural units of the following formula: -CH<sub>2</sub> - CH -X - O- R

in which X stands for a single bond or a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub> alkylene group and R for a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl group. The mixture has a water content or organic solvent content of less than 5 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the sum of poly(meth)acrylate (A) and polyvinyl alkyl ether (B). New Claim 21 is directed to the subject matter of original Claim 1 in combination with the subject matter of Claim 8.

As to the invention aspects claimed in Claims 14 and 16, the process of Claim 14 requires the mixture of Claim 1 which, in particular, is an adhesive formulation which must have a water or organic solvent content of less than 5 parts by weight, based on the sum of poly(meth)acrylate (A) and polyvinyl alkyl ether (B). Similarly, the self-adherent article of Claim 16 requires the mixture of Claim 1 which must have a water or organic solvent content of less than 5 parts by weight, based on the sum of poly(meth)acrylate (A) and polyvinyl alkyl ether (B).

#### Prior Art Rejection

Claims 1, 5-7, 10, 12 and 16 stand rejected based on 35 USC 102(b) or 35 USC 103(a) as anticipated by or rendered obvious over British Patent 1,078,942. This ground of rejection is obviated by the combination of original Claims 1 and 9 in the form of amended Claim 1. The subject matter of Claims 1 and 8 has been combined in new Claim 21. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 10-13 and 16 stand rejected based on 35 USC 102(b) or 35 USC 103(a) as anticipated by or rendered obvious over British Patent 1,280,631. This ground of rejection is obviated by the combination of original Claims 1 and 9 in the form of amended Claim 1. The subject matter of Claims 1 and 8 has been combined in new Claim 21. Withdrawal of the

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rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 10, and 14-16 stand rejected based on 35 USC 102(b) or 35 USC 103(a) as anticipated by or rendered obvious by Lee, U. S. Patent 4,469,774. This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed in part.

The rejection of Claims 1, 3-5, 7 and 10 are obviated by the combination of original Claims 1 and 9 in the form of amended Claim 1. The subject matter of Claims 1 and 8 has been combined in new Claim 21.

As to the rejection of Claims 14 to 16, it is noted that Lee contains no teaching or suggestion of a process for producing self-adherent articles or a self-adherent article per se. Lee discloses a photosensitive composition which functions as a positive type coating composition as a photoresist, which contains a photosensitive polymer containing repeating units A, B and C as shown in column 1, and optionally may contain a polymer binder of a polyacrylate or a polyvinyl alkyl ether (column 3, lines 59-66). Repeating unit A of the main polymer is a (meth)acrylate that contains an attached photosensitive group. And as to the formulation of a photosensitive composition, as disclosed at column 7, lines 3-24, a coating composition is formed by placing the polymer components **in an acetone solution** which, in application, is knife coated on an appropriate substrate. Clearly, this formulation does not meet the requirements of the mixture of Claim 1, upon which Claims 14 to 16 depend, which mixture must be so formulated that the adhesive composition contains a significant amount of organic solvent. There is absolutely no teaching or suggestion of a polymer containing or based composition that must contain very little water or organic solvent. This would stand to reason since the photosensitive composition of the reference is used as a photoresist which is a field of

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technology quite distinct from the field of technology of the present invention relating to hot melt adhesives, in particular.

Accordingly, the rejection of Claims 14-16 is believed obviated and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

It is now believed that the application is in proper condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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